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THE UNSEEN GUEST

Volume II

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THE UNSEEN GUEST

Volume Two

This second volume of *THE UNSEEN GUEST* contains sketches of Methodist missionary workers—including deaconesses and nationals—in the Caribbean area and among the groups in the United States that have the background of that area. In this respect it differs from the first volume, which included workers selected from various home and foreign. It is hoped that the present procedure may be followed until a complete roster of such workers will be available in this form.

You are invited to entertain one of these persons in your home each day, to share with them through contemplation and prayer the hospitality you would so gladly extend if one of them should knock in person at your door. Read a sketch daily, think of what the worker is doing, and pray earnestly that both worker and work may be blessed of the Heavenly Father and given an abundant success.

These workers among our nearest neighbors and those Americans of Latin American extraction are in strategic positions now. They are Good Neighbors for God, who do more than diplomats and business men to lay deep and firm the foundations of good relations between the various lands of this hemisphere. Their work is peculiarly different now, just as it is also peculiarly important. They need our spiritual companionship, and they have a right to expect it.

They shall receive it. We sent them out. We love them. We believe in their work. We will find them "with golden chains about the feet of God."

FIRST DAY



REV. MILTON C. DAVIS

FOR the past twenty years, Milton C. Davis has been working among the people of Mexico. Before going to Mexico itself, he spent four years as director of the theological school of Lydia Patterson Institute at El Paso, Texas.

His big job for the last thirteen years has been in connection with Union Evangelical Center in Mexico City, the only school in Mexico for the training of young men for the Protestant ministry. A co-operative project of Congregationalists, Disciples, Friends, and Methodists, this school enrolls twenty or more young Mexicans each year for Christian leadership. Their studies embrace both the universal Christian doctrine and their own national culture within which they will carry on their ministry. Mr. Davis has expressed his conviction of the urgency of the work he is doing in his statement, "The hope of the future lies in the young people."

Mr. Davis is a native of Missouri, a graduate of Central College in that State, with advanced degrees from Vanderbilt University. He was experienced both as a teacher and a pastor before entering missionary service.

The prayers of all of us are needed to give strength to the workers of the Church in Mexico and to reassure them that they are linked with the Church everywhere in a world-wide fellowship.

SECOND DAY



BERTHA COX

OUR prayer special for today, Miss Bertha Cox, was born into a family of teachers and Methodist ministers. She was reared in a Christian home in which the Bible was read and in which Sundays were occasions for enjoyable things—going to church, entertaining friends, reading good books, wearing one's best clothes, eating "extras" for dinner. Early in life Miss Cox came to associate being happy with being a Christian. For a while she was a teacher, feeling that being a Christian in the schoolroom was all that God expected of her. Then she felt a definite call to become a deaconess. Her appointments since Scarritt days have been to Wesley House, Nashville, Tennessee; Wesley House, San Francisco, California; Wesley House, Atlanta, Georgia; Wolff Settlement, Tampa, Florida; and Valley Institute, Pharr, Texas, where she is now serving her sixth year.

In all her settlement appointments Miss Cox has worked with young people, and it has been her joy to see many of them grow spiritually as they have come to find places of service in the church. Visiting in the homes of the community people has been one of her specialties. At Valley Institute, the school for Mexican girls where Miss Cox is now superintendent, character-building and health are emphasized. Let us pray that Miss Cox and her co-workers may be instrumental in helping all Valley Institute girls become strong physically and spiritually.

THIRD DAY



FRANCES B. MOLING

MISS FRANCES MOLING, our prayer guest for today, received her first appointment as a missionary in 1899, which was to Mary Keener Institute in Mexico City. A year later she was assigned to a teaching position in Laredo Seminary, now Holding Institute, at Laredo, Texas. (Although this school is located just inside the United States, at that time it was considered foreign work and was under the supervision of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society.) Miss Moling served as principal of *Colegio Ingles*, San Luis, Potosi, Mexico, from 1904 until 1914, when all Americans were ordered out of Mexico by President Wilson, because of a revolution there.

Miss Moling's fourteen years in educational work in Mexico were followed by twenty-three years in Cuba as principal of the girls' school, *Colegio Eliza Bowman*, in Cienfuegos. Upon Miss Moling's taking over the principalship of this school, educational standards for students and faculty were raised, a new emphasis was placed upon the teaching of the Bible, students were encouraged to work in the local church, and old buildings were repaired and new ones gradually acquired.

Miss Moling is retired now and lives in Kansas City, Missouri. Younger missionaries are unanimous in their acclaim that Miss Moling is one of the finest, kindest, most efficient, and altogether charming persons that a mission field ever had.

FOURTH DAY



REV. RICHARD H.
SILVERTHORN*

DR. RICHARD H. SILVERTHORN, president of the Spanish American Institute at Gardena, California, sees in this critical period through which the world is passing signs of the need for greater basic security, the kind of security the Institute is trying to insure for its several hundred boys of Mexican descent. One of the most significant phases of the Institute's program, which is primarily vocational, is the use that has been made of the Mexican cultural heritage of these young Americans.

Dr. Silverthorn is justly proud of the exquisitely beautiful chapel, recently completed, done in perfect taste in the Mexican tradition. Brilliant colors, dear to the people of a sunny land, are combined with meticulously executed wood panels, carved by the boys themselves. How enriching this is to their training, this development of an appreciation of their culture's unique contribution to art and beauty.

It is natural that Dr. Silverthorn should have this understanding of cultural values, for he has spent much of his life among people of other nationalities than his own. Earlier in his career, he lived in a colony of Chinese in a remote part of Malaysia, far from any other Americans. Let us pray for the continuing service of this man.

*This subject was in the first volume of this series and is included here to complete the picture of Caribbean work.

FIFTH DAY



REV. J. A. PHILLIPS

REV. J. A. PHILLIPS retired in 1939 as Superintendent of the Latin Mission in Florida, thus terminating an active missionary career that began nearly forty years ago.

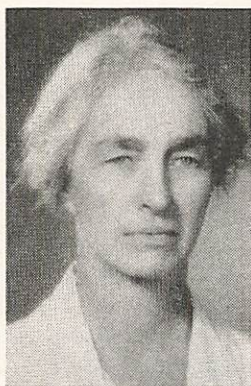
John Albert Phillips was born in Texas and holds degrees from the North Texas State Teachers College and Southern Methodist University. He entered the Methodist ministry in 1890 and for thirteen years was pastor of various churches in Texas. In 1903 he gave himself to work among the Mexicans, and missionary duties absorbed him constantly thereafter.

He was pastor of several Mexican churches in Texas and Arizona. He served two terms in the United States and one term in Mexico as district superintendent. He was also President of the Mexican Methodist Institute in San Antonio, Texas, and Director of the People's Institute at Piedras Negras in Mexico.

In 1926 he went to Cuba as pastor of the Methodist church at Santa Clara, and then returned to the United States and became the Superintendent of the Latin Mission in Florida.

These varied missionary activities have been accompanied by literary work and social and civic activities of various kinds. Few men have been more active in missionary service and in his well-earned retirement he should be remembered in the prayers of the Church.

SIXTH DAY



ETHEL THOMAS

ONE of the joys of visiting Mexico City and seeing the work of The Methodist Church there is to meet Miss Ethel Thomas. She has the graciousness of the land in which she works, and the spirit of service which she brought from her own Christian family in Kansas.

She says that her preparation for work in Mexico began at her birth. She was born in a pioneer home in central Kansas, one of a family of ten, and she had to learn to live with others from her first dawn of consciousness. She took her place in the work of the farm from time to time with the other children. Years afterward when she was appointed to the Methodist farm school just outside Mexico City, this work stood her in good stead.

Except for four months when she taught in the school at Paschuaca and seven months when she substituted for persons on furlough in Puebla she has spent her entire twenty-three years at the farm school. In those years she has become a citizen—in the sense of shared obligations—in Mexico City. As for the Mexicans she says of them:

"Work in Mexico has been a continuing joy; Mexicans are, of all peoples, most kind, courteous and understanding. I will never forget my first impression upon hearing a beautiful sermon by one of our Mexican pastors at the time of my arrival—and have I come to be a missionary to this people! I thought!"

SEVENTH DAY



REV. EUSTON E. CLEMENTS*

AFTER forty-two years of service in Cuba, E. E. Clements retired in March, 1943, with the satisfaction of having seen his work grow from a small mission to a full-fledged annual conference and knowing that many of his former students in the theological seminary in Havana are now in places of leadership.

Mr. Clements went to Cuba in 1901, a year before the island achieved its complete independence. Having been inspired by what he read of the work of missionaries and by what the Student Volunteer Movement was doing, he resolved while still in college to make his ministry in the mission field. He was educated at Emory College in Georgia, the State of his birth.

Mr. and Mrs. Clements have served in many capacities during their years in Cuba, especially in pastoral and educational work. At his retirement, Mr. Clements said, "I feel that the most satisfactory and joyous service has been in the pastoral and evangelistic field and in the preparation of young men for the ministry."

Probably the most striking monument to Mr. Clements' work in Cuba is the theological seminary which he founded as a separate institution while he was president of Candler College and which he served as dean for eleven years.

*E. E. Clements appeared in the first volume, and is included here to complete the list of workers among people of Caribbean descent.

EIGHTH DAY



OLLIE WILLINGS

MISS OLLIE WILLINGS is one of those persons who is endowed by nature with effortless friendliness, and consequently is liked by everyone, wherever she goes. In her ten years of serving in Methodist institutions she has been especially successful in work with children.

Miss Willings is a Texan; she attended Baylor University and later, Scarritt College for Christian Workers at Nashville, Tennessee. After she graduated from Scarritt in 1932 she was appointed to MacDonell School and Wesley House in Houma, Louisiana, where she served for six years in that French-Canadian community.

For one year Miss Willings was at the Virginia K. Johnson Home in Dallas.

Since 1940 she has been children's worker at the Wesley House in San Antonio.

Let us pray today for Miss Willings and her friendly, capable work in the Wesley House community.

NINTH DAY



REV. RICHARD J. PARKER*

MISSIONARY to Cuba," "Missionary to the Western Mexican Mission," and finally, "Missionary to the Latin Mission in Florida"; under these headings Richard J. Parker has classified his thirty-five years of service in The Methodist Church. Uncertain health having forced his retirement from active service in February, 1943.

When he was first sent to Cuba in 1908, Mr. Parker even then was no stranger to Latin Americans. He had already spent two years in Puerto Rico, knew Spanish, and was devoted to the Spanish-speaking people. It had been his first determination to go to Africa, but, eager for immediate service, he seized the Puerto Rican opportunity when it came.

His success as an evangelist missionary has continued through the years, from 1908 to 1922 in Cuba, then until 1939 in the Western Mexican Conference in this country, and the last four years in Florida. His mileage total for these years must reach large proportions, as his total for one year while covering the southwestern section of the United States was often as much as fifty thousand miles.

At his retirement, Mr. Parker was serving as pastor of the San Marcos church at Ybor City as well as superintendent of the Cuban Mission in Florida.

*Mr. Parker was included in the first volume of THE UNSEEN GUEST and is included here to complete the roster of Caribbean workers in the present volume.

TENTH DAY



RUTH E. BYERLY

MISS RUTH ELLYSON BYERLY says that she does not remember the time when she did not plan to become a foreign missionary. She grew up in a simple farm home in the Shenandoah Valley, and early began to take part in the missionary work of the old Baltimore Conference. Later she went on for further training at Scarritt College.

Miss Byerly is one of those persons whose life proves that the mission zeal is the same at home or abroad. Her years as a social worker at Kingdom House, St. Louis, and at St. Marks settlement house in New Orleans, prepared her, she feels, for the evangelistic-social work she carries on in Mexico.

For eight years she devoted herself to social-evangelistic work in the social centers in Chihuahua and in Durango. Then for four years she helped train future deaconesses in Colegio Roberts, in Saltillo.

But the best five years of her life, she recalls, have been these past years which she has spent as a rural worker on a five-point circuit, Villa Frontera, in the state of Coahuila. Although country people are notoriously reserved with "outsiders" Miss Byerly's parish has taken her to its heart. "I have found the people of my adopted land," says she, "warm-hearted, appreciative, lovable folk."

During the next year Miss Byerly will come to the United States to study rural work.

ELEVENTH DAY



REBECCA TOLAND

IT is a privilege to have in our missionary prayer book this quarter brief sketches of one or two Cuba missionaries who helped lay the strong foundations upon which more recent workers

have built.

In the all-too-brief lines below Miss Rebecca Toland tells of her missionary experience:

"I was educated in the Chappell Hill Female College in Texas and graduated at the age of sixteen. After leaving school my one thought was, 'What shall I do with my life?' Of all Scripture texts the one that has been my motto through life is this: 'Trust in the Lord with all thine heart, and lean not unto thine own understanding.' So after four years of waiting and prayer I was led to surrender my whole life to his guidance and to do his will.

"At the first annual meeting of the Texas Conference of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society held in Houston, Texas, I was received as a missionary candidate. Later I was sent to the Mexican Border Mission to do school work. After nine years in Laredo, I was sent to San Luis, Potosi, Mexico, to open up new work there. I was in charge of the school there for twelve years.

"In 1902 I was sent to Matanzas, Cuba, and was in charge of the school there for twenty-three years. I was retired in 1925."

THE UNSEEN GUEST

TWELFTH DAY



SPANISH AMERICAN INSTITUTE

RICHARD H. SILVERTHORN
JOHN P. HOWE
C. C. GIESERT

MYRTLE WRIGHT
MARTHA BROWN

THESE people are the missionary workers at the Spanish American Institute in Gardena, California, a suburb of Los Angeles. Mr. Silverthorn, President of the Institute, is mentioned

in this book.

This institution is not an ordinary school for Mexican young people, but is an institution unique in character. In the center of its spacious campus stands a new and beautiful chapel reflecting the Spanish architectural tradition and conducive to worship and spiritual inspiration.

It has gardens wherein the students receive training in agriculture. There is a fine herd of cattle in its dairying department. Mr. Giesert is the farm superintendent. The school of arts and crafts turns out beautiful Mexican products of every description and its display rooms and store attract many visitors.

All who are interested in the spiritual and economic welfare of the many Mexican people in California should remember in their prayers these workers who are responsible for the Spanish American Institute.

THIRTEENTH DAY



ORA MARIE HOGE

MISS MARIE HOGE decided secretly in early childhood that if God were willing she would serve her Master as a deaconess. Doubtless the Chicago *Christian Advocate*, which came into her home regularly with interesting stories of deaconess work, and the speeches of deaconesses in her church influenced her in making this decision.

After graduating from high school she spent several happy years as a rural school teacher in her native state Illinois, then following her parents who had moved to California, she entered the San Francisco National Training School for Deaconesses. Her first appointment under the church was as a rural deaconess and supply pastor on the Sacramento District. Later she served at the Italian Friendly Center in San Francisco, where she became so interested in work with small children that she decided to secure kindergarten training. This she obtained at the Kansas City National Training School. Since then, Miss Hoge has been the kindergarten director at the Church of All Nations in Los Angeles. In this institution representatives of forty-two nationalities have been reached with Christian influence. Many of the 2,272 boys and girls served in this center have become Christian leaders and home-makers.

Miss Hoge covets the prayers of the readers of this prayer booklet for herself and the people whom she serves.

FOURTEENTH DAY



BISHOP ELEAZAR GUERRA

ELECTED in 1938, the third bishop of the Methodist Church of Mexico, and re-elected in 1942 to be the first bishop to serve two terms, Eleazar Guerra is well known in both Mexico and the United States as an able administrator, an exceptional preacher, and a friendly, brotherly man. He came to the episcopacy from the post of district superintendent of the Eastern District of the Border Annual Conference.

Bishop Guerra earlier had spent many years in Texas, studying at Wesleyan Institute in San Antonio and graduating from the School of Theology of Southern Methodist University in Dallas. He was pastor of Spanish-speaking churches in both San Antonio and Dallas.

The body which elected Bishop Guerra in 1938 was the third general conference of the Mexican Church. It is one of the four Methodist Churches in foreign lands which have grown to places of independence and are now called affiliated autonomous churches. The others are the Methodist Church of Brazil, the Japan Methodist Church, and the Korean Methodist Church.

Although these churches have grown up and are beginning to take care of themselves, they still need the help and encouragement of the mother church. Pray for them in their struggle to grow strong in the midst of today's strife and uncertainties.

FIFTEENTH DAY



REV. J. W. DANIEL*

IN time of war more and more work is demanded of everyone and there has been no exception to this at Lydia Patterson Institute at El Paso, Texas. Handicapped by a depleted staff, with a "round-the-clock" schedule in the boarding school and an increased day-school enrollment, nevertheless the past year of the school, under the leadership of J. W. Daniel, its president, has been an encouraging one.

Standing as it does in the heart of our Southwest and on the border of Mexico, the Institute is in a strategic position to make a significant contribution to good neighborliness.

J. W. Daniel is new at Lydia Patterson Institute in terms of his long service in the mission field. He went to Brazil as a missionary almost thirty years ago, not coming to El Paso until 1936.

But he is an old hand at the matter of directing a school, having founded Passo Fundo Institute during his long service in Brazil. Wisdom, born of his experience, and his faith in the task have taught him to take the long view, which he has expressed in this way: "In moments of weariness and discouragement we may feel that much of our effort goes for naught, but in clearer light and fairer perspective we realize that 'our labor is not in vain in the Lord.'"

*Mr. Daniel appeared in the first volume of THE UNSEEN GUEST. He is included here in order to present a complete picture of Caribbean work.

SIXTEENTH DAY



LORRAINE BUCK

MISS LORRAINE BUCK is a native of Alabama. From early childhood it was her desire to become a missionary. She has had the privilege of serving in both Mexico and Cuba.

Often she is asked which country she prefers, but she does not find this an easy question to answer, for the years spent in both countries have been happy ones, filled with many blessings. Before coming home on furlough last year Miss Buck worked in Baguanos, Oriente, Cuba, which is in a sugar mill area. She expects to resume her work there.

Two years ago when Miss Buck and her co-worker, a young Cuban girl, Miss Rosa Maria Sueiro, arrived in Baguanos, they were strangers to the community, but they did not remain strangers long; they began to visit in the homes of the people, who received them cordially.

Baguanos is a rural-industrial community of about three thousand people, most of whom had never had an opportunity of hearing an evangelical Christian message before these Methodist workers arrived. This fact has constituted a great challenge as well as a great responsibility.

After a year of service in Baguanos Miss Sueiro entered school for further training, and Miss Buck and Miss Agnes Malloy, another missionary, worked there. While Miss Buck and Miss Malloy are now on furlough, Miss Eulalia Cook is directing the clubs, religious services, and other activities.

SEVENTEENTH DAY



FELIX E. SOTO

FELIX E. SOTO is District Superintendent of the northern district of the Southwest Mexican Annual Conference. His father was a Methodist itinerant for forty-two years, having served in the frontier States of Tamaulipas, Neuvo Leon, and Coahuila in Mexico, where he was converted from the Catholic to the Methodist faith, and twenty years in Texas.

Felix E. Soto thus describes his religious experience: "My profession of faith at the age of twelve is an experience which lives with me to this day and marks the beginning of a conscious, personal, Christian experience which grows brighter, stronger, and more abundant with the years."

In 1918 he decided to enter the ministry and went to the Lydia Patterson Institute in El Paso, Texas. He finished his high school education at this Institute and in 1922 was graduated from the theological department. That same year he was married and received his first appointment to Del Rio, Texas.

Mr. Soto is a leader in his conference and has been a delegate to two General Conferences.

EIGHTEENTH DAY



DORA Z. SCHMIDT

MISS DORA SCHMIDT went first to Mexico as a contract teacher. She was sent to the beautiful but lonely country of Chihuahua to teach English in Colegio Palmore. Year after year she returned to Mexico to teach, moving on to Instituto MacDonnell, in Durango and later going to Saltillo. After fifteen years as a contract teacher, Miss Schmidt asked and received the full missionary status and was assigned to Instituto Laurens in Monterrey, where she has been for several years in charge of a girls' hostel.

Perhaps some of the value of the work of Miss Schmidt can be glimpsed from a letter written to her by a little Catholic girl who had lived in Miss Schmidt's hostel:

"I feel very happy to have been able to enjoy several years with you and to learn above all that 'it is better to give than to receive.' Frankly, I had had a very wrong idea about this, but I shall remember it the rest of my life, for now my joy is in giving."

Among Miss Schmidt's many sterling characteristics is a gentleness of manner that makes her an easy person to know and to talk to. In maintaining a comfortable Christian home for her group of Mexican girls she is making an excellent contribution to Mexico and to missions.

Let us pray that the joy of giving will become known to many other girls through Miss Schmidt's loving service.

NINETEENTH DAY



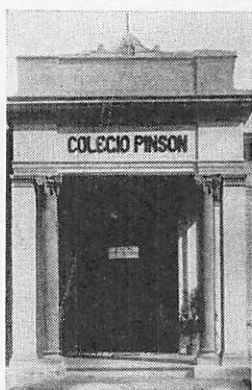
RUTH FERGUSON

WITH earnest and untiring devotion Miss Ruth Ferguson entered upon a most difficult and lonely field of pioneering here. . . . Cheerfully uniting her patient and trained life with the two Mexican girls, the Narro sisters, the work and even the Mission property is now an inspiration to visit. . . ." This tribute is from the superintendent of the Latin-American Conference.

Miss Ferguson says: "Although my assigned task is assisting the pastor and doing community work, my privileges of service are most varied, including not only work in Calexico, California, a town whose population is two-thirds Mexican, but also work in Mexicali, a growing city of 30,000 people and the capital of Lower California. I visit in homes, seeing that ill folk are cared for; assist in relief work; help solve immigration problems; seek employment for people; direct recreation groups, clubs, and classes; and hold religious services.

"My compensations are many—the light on a mother's smile when her baby is better, the grateful handclaps of a family when members of our center have helped them in a time of bereavement, the willingness of our children to take responsibilities when only recently they were too bashful, and perhaps most important of all, having someone ask for baptism and the privilege of joining the church, thus indicating that that person has dedicated his life to God."

TWENTIETH DAY



REV. JOSEPH G. BOARD

A MORE easily discouraged person than Joseph Board would have shaken his head over the future prospects of Pinson school at Camaguey, Cuba, when he was appointed its director in 1938. The first twenty-five years of the school, following its founding in 1903, were extremely successful. But in the early thirties disaster struck repeatedly.

First there were financial reverses, then the national crisis in Cuba disrupted the educational system, and finally a cyclone destroyed half the buildings.

But the school is the only Methodist one in the eastern half of the island of Cuba and it is needed. This need was enough to inspire Joseph Board and his immediate predecessor, Carlos Perez, to put all of their energies into restoring the school. The plant is still too small to take care of even the economically insufficient student body, but the school is doing good work educationally and exerting a positive Christian influence upon its students and upon the community.

A native of Kentucky and educated at Indiana, Georgia, and Havana, Mr. Board spent his first nine years in Cuba as a contract teacher at Candler College. After becoming a regular missionary, he did pastoral work for fifteen years at Pinar del Rio, Herradura, Matanzas, and Cienfuegos.

TWENTY-FIRST DAY



FELICIDAD MENDEZ

MISS MENDEZ came from Mexico to Texas when she was a baby. Her father died when she was a small child, but as there was a revolution at that time in Mexico, her mother did not

return. It was through visiting in the home of needy Mexican people when interpreting for a deaconess that Miss Mendez first became interested in Christian service as a life-work. After attending public school in Ft. Worth, and studying at Texas Woman's College, Miss Mendez taught at Holding Institute, at Laredo, Texas. Later she studied at Scarritt, after which she was consecrated a deaconess. She now has a Master's degree from George Peabody College for Teachers. She has served as kindergarten teacher in Wesley House in Ft. Worth and Houston, Texas, and in Valley Institute, Pharr, Texas.

"I've had varied opportunities of service," says Miss Mendez. "Besides my work at the institutions in which I've served, I've always had a part in the work of our local churches. I've taught in our summer assembly, been counselor for our young people's caravan in our conference, and now it is my privilege to travel, that I may visit local churches in the interest of helping to build up the Woman's Societies of Christian Service. *I believe in my work.* It brings me joy and satisfaction because it meets a definite need. Shall not our prayers be with Miss Mendez as almost daily she seeks to help a new group of church women?"

TWENTY-SECOND DAY



MAY COBURN

MISS COBURN writes of her kindergarten teaching experience:

"After twenty-eight years of work with children of various backgrounds I have decided that children are the

same the world over."

Miss Coburn has had ample opportunity to observe children of various nationalities and diverse personalities, for at her first appointment to Wesley House in St. Joseph, Missouri, she worked with children of Syrian, Polish, German, and Roumanian backgrounds. After that she worked in Nashville, Tennessee, with children from varied kinds of American homes. At the Wesley House in San Antonio she worked with Mexican children, and now in Rosa Valdez Settlement in Tampa, Florida, she works with children of Italian, Cuban and Spanish parentage.

Miss Coburn said: "With seven brothers and sisters at home it wasn't hard to be interested in children. Perhaps that is why Mrs. Lambkin, a member of the Birmingham City Mission Board and a family friend, thought that I would be interested in volunteer work in the kindergarten at Avondale Wesley House. I went over to the mill village and grew to love the work. When I learned of the possibility of going to the Methodist Training School in Nashville, I decided to make it (kindergarten teaching) my life work."

TWENTY-THIRD DAY



REV. BEN O. HILL*

BEN O. HILL is the director of ministerial training at Lydia Patterson Institute in El Paso, Texas, the only Methodist center in the United States for the training of Spanish-speaking ministers and Christian workers. Although there is a well-organized high school, the plan of the institution centers around the needs and interests of the ministerial students.

During their training the students get a great deal of practical experience in the churches of El Paso and in general community work. Mr. Hill is convinced that much of the value in these contacts lies in the development of closer interracial co-operation and friendliness. These young men, after graduation, not only serve most of the Spanish-speaking Methodist churches in this country but are found throughout Mexico and Central America.

A missionary among Latin Americans since 1907, when he went to Cuba, Mr. Hill is keenly aware of today's need for greater interracial and international understanding. Writing recently, he said, "Our missionary program is vital to the peace of the world and must not be allowed to waver or weaken. God help us, even in the midst of the fiery ordeal through which we are passing, to 'seek first the Kingdom of God and his righteousness,' for only so shall we be able to maintain high standards of morality and a just and lasting peace."

*Ben O. Hill was included in the first volume of this series and is mentioned here to complete the roster of workers among the peoples of the Caribbean area.

TWENTY-FOURTH DAY



DORA L. INGRUM

MISS DORA INGRUM began to know and to love the Mexican people when she first taught English to Mexican children at Nogales, Arizona. She had prepared for service in Scarritt Training School, Kansas City, Missouri, and the teaching of these children pointed the way that service should take. The next year she was accepted as an educational missionary to Mexico and entered her work in the fall of 1919.

There has followed a long period of teaching for Miss Ingrum. She was principal of the Institute Ingles-Espanol in Monterrey until 1927; she taught at Instituto Laurens until 1931, taught in Saltillo after that, and helped change the Colegio Roberts to the Centro Social Roberts. In 1936 she opened a rural center near by in Ramos Arizpe, but she continued to go into Saltillo several times a week to help with the training of deaconesses.

Today Miss Ingrum is teaching at the Union Theological School in Mexico City and continuing to help in the training of Methodist deaconesses.

After these years of educational work in Mexico Miss Ingrum writes:

"Mexicans are industrious, patriotic, artistic, ambitious for an education and other good things in life. They have a very high moral sense. Often an outsider is mistrusted until he proves himself worthy of friendship, then he can count on good will and co-operation."

TWENTY-FIFTH DAY



LATIN MISSION IN FLORIDA

AMONG the Cubans in the Florida cities of Tampa, Key West, and Miami are four Methodist preachers: Guillermo Perez, Felipe Llera, A. M. D. Riggio, and Francisco Boan. For many years

their work was organized as the Latin Mission, but this separate organization has recently been dissolved and the churches have been placed in the appropriate districts of the Florida Annual Conference.

Rev. R. J. Parker and Rev. J. A. Phillips, who are mentioned elsewhere in this book, have been superintendents of the Latin Mission and are now retired from active service.

There are many Cubans in Florida and the Methodists have long been interested in them. In fact, the work among Cubans in Key West led to the establishment of a foreign mission in the island of Cuba itself. At the present time five churches and three social settlements render invaluable service for the Cubans.

Many of the Methodists are second and third generation Americans, attending our schools, speaking our language, and taking part in all social and civic affairs. The use of the Spanish tongue is decreasing. But the spiritual need is great and the Church should pray for these pastors and their retired superintendent.

TWENTY-SIXTH DAY



DRETA SHARP

MISS DRETA SHARP went to Cuba as a missionary in 1925. But before then she had been a teacher in the schools of her home state of Georgia. Today former pupils in both the United States and in Cuba attribute many of their achievements to her.

Miss Sharp has spent seventeen years in the schools of Cuba, most of the time at *Colegio Eliza Bowman*. For a number of years she was *directora* at this popular girls' school, so highly esteemed by the civic officials of the city of Cienfuegos that many of them send their daughters and small sons there. Some days the beautiful campus seems all gold and white, with little girls in middy suits with yellow ties playing in the sun. The clear blue Cuban sky, and the deeper blue Caribbean Sea at the far horizon, give one a sense of an all-pervading Beauty. Out of sight, Miss Sharp may be poring over the school's financial accounts, or gently pulling down a shade in a classroom, or lovingly tending some small plant set out the afternoon before in the rock garden.

Study periods have given Miss Sharp her B.S. and M.A. degrees.

Right now she is detained at home on account of illness in her family. Let us give thanks for this missionary and pray that her hands may be consecrated and her heart made peaceful as she seeks ever to minister to others.

TWENTY-SEVENTH DAY



REV. BARNEY MORGAN

BARNEY MORGAN is general field superintendent of the united Christian work in the Dominican Republic. A native of Missouri, he grew up in the Indian Territory, where his parents moved when he was a small boy. His studies at Park College in Missouri were interrupted by the first world war, in which he served as a second lieutenant in the army. Returning to Pak for his bachelor's degree in 1920, he divided the next five years between graduate study at Princeton where he received both master and theology degrees, and work as a pastor and principal of a high school.

His career as a missionary began in 1925 when he went to Puerto Rico, where he spent four years. In 1929 he was appointed to his present position in the work which unites Presbyterians, United Brethren, and Methodists. Nowhere else have Boards of Missions put on such a united program under a common organization.

Both he and Mrs. Morgan teach in the university at the capital, Ciudad Trujillo. Mrs. Morgan is the director of the famous choir whose regular weekly broadcasts have been picked up from as far away as England. Many European refugees have sought haven in the Dominican Republic and the Morgans have taken to them the friendly, helping spirit of the Christian mission.

TWENTY-EIGHTH DAY



MATTIE VARN

HOW would you like to spend every week-day in the presence of forty lively Mexican-American small boys and girls? At the Wesley House kindergarten in Fort Worth, Texas,

Mattie Varn has such a group to enliven her daily life, and she loves it and them. Miss Varn arrived at this very satisfying Latin-American destination in a roundabout way. Graduating from the University of South Carolina as an honor student, she spent several years teaching; then she entered Scarritt College for specialized religious training, and kindergarten training at Peabody College. She later went to Panama as an English teacher in the Instituto Pan-Americano, where she worked for three years. This is her eighth year at Wesley Community House in Fort Worth where as a deaconess under the W. D. C. S. she not only teaches the kindergarten class but also directs the Mothers' Club, and works with the children at the Mexican Methodist Church. Of this work she says:

"I find it a joy to work with Latin-American people who contribute much to civilization through their love of beauty, music, art and drama." And: "Wherever I have worked I have found that people are the same at heart—with the same aspirations and hopes. Given equal opportunities no race or nation would be inferior to another. Each has a contribution to make—something in which it excels."

TWENTY-NINTH DAY

REV. MANUEL V. FLORES



MANUEL FLORES is one of the general connectional officers of the Methodist Church in Mexico. He is general secretary of the Board of Religious Education. But he does not stop with that. He is a teacher, having a class in the Union Evangelical Seminary in Mexico City; he is an editor, putting out *Vanguardia Juvenil*, a magazine for Methodist young people which has a circulation all over Latin America; he is a musician, preparing hymnals for the young people of the Church; he is an artist, illustrating both the magazine and the hymnals; he is a leader of youth, having been formerly the director of young people's work in the Central Conference.

Senora Flores is also talented. She edits another magazine called *Comino*, which is especially for the children of the Church. As Vera Vierira de Andrade before her marriage, she was a teacher in Bennett College, a Methodist school in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and a leader in children's dramatics and religious education. Together these young people are contributing heavily of their talents to the growth of the Mexican Church.

Under the leadership of Manuel Flores, 110 delegates of the youth of the Mexican Methodist Church gathered in December, 1942, for a week of study and worship and were joined there by a delegation of Mexican young people from across the border in Laredo, Texas.

THIRTIETH DAY



MATTIE CUNNINGHAM

MISS MATTIE CUNNINGHAM feels that her call to her missionary work came through a certain story that was told her. It was a story about a Chinese who found so much wickedness at an entry port to America that he could scarcely believe that he had arrived in the homeland of a China missionary friend.

Both Miss Cunningham and her sister took special training at the Methodist Training School in Nashville, Tenn., and both of them became deaconesses and have rendered excellent service under the church.

Most of Miss Cunningham's thirty-one years of service have been spent among foreign-speaking peoples—in Tennessee with Jews, in West Virginia and Oklahoma with folk of many nationalities, in Mississippi with French and Austrian people, and in Texas with Mexicans. Making the community center as homelike as possible for the people of the settlement neighborhood has been an opportunity she has particularly enjoyed throughout past years. Also home visitation has been a "special" with her.

Miss Cunningham is now serving in the Mexican Social Center, in San Marcos, Texas, where she finds her Mexican friends unusually lovable. This center is unique in that it has attracted the interest and support of various churches of different denominations and of such civic groups as the Parent-Teachers' Association and study clubs.

THIRTY-FIRST DAY



DR. HARRY B. BARDWELL

DR. HARRY B. BARDWELL was born in Georgia. At the age of twelve years he was converted in a revival meeting, and after his secondary education he entered Emory College, from which he received the degree of Ph.B. in June, 1899. In his sophomore year he became a student volunteer. He had a definite call to preach in November, 1898, and went to Cuba in 1903.

His labors were many and abundant—building churches, chapels, and parsonages. In January, 1908, he was appointed to Central Church, Havana, and a year later Director of Candler College and district superintendent. He secured land for the erection of Candler College. In 1912 the main building was occupied. The first college building in Cuba to be constructed by alumni was the Commercial Building of the college in 1940.

Dr. Bardwell was honored with the degree, Doctor of Pedagogy, by the University of Havana. In 1938 he was elected by Emory University to Phi Beta Kappa. He was made an "adopted son" of Mariano, Cuba, in a public ceremony by the municipal government January 28, 1940.

He serves as President of Candler College and as pastor of Leland Memorial Church, a self-supporting church with more than four hundred members.

THIRTY-SECOND DAY



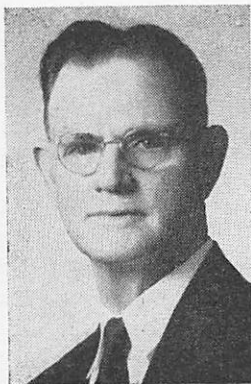
CATHERINE FERGUSON

IN the midst of an overwhelmingly busy week Miss Catherine Ferguson, deaconess of the Argentine Mexican Mission of Kansas City, Kansas, stopped long enough to tell us something of her work. Although the government has discontinued its WPA assistance, the staff is carrying all its former classes. Responsibilities there are heavier also "because of mothers weeping for their sons in the army, mothers who need constant help and encouragement."

Having worked continuously in the Argentine Mexican Mission of Kansas City, Kansas, since she became a deaconess in 1920, Miss Ferguson has had the joy of seeing it grow through the years. She was present when the work was cared for on one remodeled floor of an old building and when the first Sunday school in the neighborhood was started. Now the center has a kindergarten and a nursery that provide well-planned lunches, cod-liver oil, rest, and play; now groups of boys come to the mission for recreation, where they have ample space for basketball and other games; now numbers of mothers find in the clinic needed medical care for themselves and their babies; and community groups gather in the worshipful mission chapel for religious services that are conducted by a leader from their own community who is trained and prepared for the ministry.

Shall we pray that Miss Ferguson and her co-workers may have the strength they need for their heavy responsibilities?

THIRTY-THIRD DAY



N. B. STUMP

N. B. STUMP, who is a district superintendent in the Southwest Mexican Conference, says he fought the call to preach for thirteen years before yielding to it. During this time he taught in the public schools and worked with Mexican youth as a Y. M. C. A. Secretary. But he was not satisfied. He has always had a great love for the Mexican people and finally gave his life to the work of ministering to them.

For over twenty years he has been a missionary to the Mexican population in the Southwest, serving as pastor of Mexican churches at El Paso, Texas, and Nogales, Arizona. In June, 1929, he became President of Lydia Patterson Institute, Methodist school for the education of Mexican youth at El Paso. He held this position for more than ten years. Lydia Patterson draws its students from both sides of the Rio Grande and has the distinction of having the only Methodist Theological School for Mexicans in this country.

"During the almost twenty-three years since I resolved to obey the Lord and do the best I could in the work to which He called me," says Mr. Stump, "there has not been one hour of dissatisfaction in my life. I have been happy, though not at all times satisfied with what I have done. I give Him all the praise for what I have been enabled to accomplish through the years."

THIRTY-FOURTH DAY



SUSIE MITCHELL

ONCE when Miss Susie Mitchell of Murry City, Tennessee, was visiting her brother in St. Louis, Missouri, she offered to help in an emergency at Sloan's Mission. The emergency lengthened into a two-year term of service, during which time the mission became Kingdom House. Miss Mitchell liked that type of work but decided that if she were going to continue in it she would first seek training. Therefore she entered the Methodist Training School in Nashville, Tennessee. Since her graduation in 1911, her deaconess appointments have been exceedingly interesting and varied. She has worked in Texas, Mississippi, South Carolina, Oklahoma, Missouri, Virginia, and with large industrial groups—coal and zinc miners, cotton mill people, meat packers, fish canners, some of whom were descendants of the early settlers of this country or were families who had more recently come to America from Austria, Lithuania, Mexico, Italy.

"I am now serving in the beautiful little city of Alpine, Texas, away up in the Davis Mountains, in a Mexican community center," writes Miss Mitchell. Among the activities of this settlement house are a kindergarten, a night school, a baby clinic, a Girl Reserve club, sewing classes, recreation clubs, and vacation church schools.

Let us give thanks for Miss Mitchell, remembering her adaptability to different peoples and circumstances, and let us ask that God will give those blessings she most needs today.

THIRTY-FIFTH DAY



REV. JUAN DIAZ

WHEN the Union Evangelical Seminary in Mexico City decided to open a new department for the rural church, Juan Diaz, former secretary of religious education of the Methodist

Church in Mexico, was chosen to direct the new work. The seminary had a growing conviction that the former emphasis on city work was a mistake, when over eighty per cent of the church membership is in the villages.

Formerly young preachers had considered country charges simply as steppingstones to coveted appointments to city churches. Since Juan Diaz took over the new department early in 1942, the unique opportunity of the village pastor has been sharply illuminated. Health, agricultural and home improvement, religious education, and evangelism—these are the areas of greatest need. The rural institutes which the department has sponsored in many parts of Mexico have found the people eager for help and instruction.

Juan Diaz is a product of Methodism in Mexico, his parents having been members of the Church before he was born. He and his brother and sister attended a Methodist school in their village. Sr. Diaz studied for the ministry at the theological seminary in Mexico City and later continued his studies at Garrett Biblical Institute and Northwestern University in Chicago. He recently returned to school again, this time at Drew Seminary in New Jersey, where he prepared himself for his new work with the rural church.

THIRTY-SIXTH DAY



LEORA SHANKS

LESS than a year ago Miss Leora Shanks began working in a country district of Cuba between the towns of Jovellanos and Pedro Betancourt, which are not far from Matanzas.

Before Miss Shanks entered this work the Jovellanos pastor had prepared a receptive attitude for her on the part of people. He had been visiting them, preaching to them, and taking them medicine from the Jovellanos Methodist Dispensary. Also they already considered it a privilege to have their homes selected for places for holding religious services. Miss Shanks began her work by house-to-house visiting in order to become acquainted with the people and to gain their confidence. Already she has started work in four different communities; in fact, it is not possible for her to expand the work rapidly enough to answer all the calls to different settlements.

Among her organized activities at present are holding services in homes, conducting a weekly class of twenty-eight young people in the study of Christian principles of living, superintending a church school of fifty-five children, directing a group of ten young women who are interested in handicrafts so that they can make attractive articles for their prospective homes. "The vastness of the territory, the greatness of the need, the enthusiasm of the people, the limitlessness of the opportunity" should cause us to lift our hearts in prayer for this missionary and the people she represents.

THIRTY-SEVENTH DAY



MARTHA ROBINSON

MISS MARTHA ROBINSON has been interested in missions from the time she was a member of the Children's Missionary Society as a little girl in Jackson, Tennessee. She did not think of going into missionary work, however, until after she had achieved a successful business career.

Her decision came quickly.

One day, walking along a busy street on her way to work, Miss Robinson was suddenly convinced that she should go into Christian service.

Two weeks later she was in Scarritt College, ready for training.

Miss Robinson has worked with many different peoples since she became a deaconess. She served at Vashti School in Thomasville, Georgia, as director of physical education. She then went into social work in Biloxi, Mississippi, with French and Austrian people. Her work next took her to the Wesley Institute in Memphis, Tennessee. For the past six years she has been carrying on the work in the Wesley House in Key West, Florida, where most of her time is given to work with the Cuban people.

Looking back over her years of service, she asks: "What more could I ask of life than to be a deaconess in The Methodist Church?"

THIRTY-EIGHTH DAY



PLAZA COMMUNITY CENTER

B. E. GARCIA
KATHERINE B. HIGGINS
ELINOR MITCHELL
LILA B. McDOWELL

EMMA BOHANNON
LUELLA ADAMS
N. L. JEAN
J. M. CASILLAS

IN an imposing building in the picturesque Mexican Center, the oldest section of downtown Los Angeles, surrounded by a foreign population composed of many nationalities, these workers carry on a varied type of missionary service for Spanish-speaking people in the name of The Methodist Church. There is no more active and successful community center anywhere. Mr. Garcia is pastor of the church at the Community Center, Miss Higgins is Executive Secretary, and the others are medical and welfare workers.

No missionaries anywhere are busier day and night than these. The Plaza Community Center itself is a beehive of activity. Classes, clinics, church services, athletic programs, employment service, and all the other aspects of a highly developed modern social center are carried on. And far beyond the walls its influence extends as its nurses and workers carry on a city-wide visitation in homes, hospitals, courts, detention centers, and other places.

Do not forget these workers and their work.

THIRTY-NINTH DAY

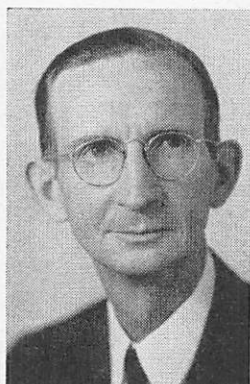


EMMA L. ELDRIDGE

AT the time Miss Emma Eldridge came for training at Scarritt College, the Mexican people were not unknown to her. She had studied at the University of California and the University of Colorado. In both states the Mexican people were at home. Nor was the Mexican country strange to one who had spent much of her time in the western states. The great distances, the distinctive purple shadows of the desert, the mesas were all familiar. But with the familiarity was a difference in the way of life, in language, in culture. Miss Eldridge went out to work with the Mexican people aware of the likenesses, aware of the differences, in the hope that two great peoples might in some small way through the work of a devoted individual come to appreciate each other, and become members of one great brotherhood.

Miss Eldridge was consecrated in Richmond, Virginia, in 1921, and went to the field the same year. Her first appointment was in the social center at Chihuahua and offered the immediate opportunity of entering into the lives of the people in a way that a social center affords. Then came a period of teaching in Saltillo, in Chihuahua, and in Parral. Through that teaching, she came to know even better the needs as well as the richnesses of the homes from which the students came. Today she is back in the Centro Cristiano where she started her service.

FORTIETH DAY



REV. GARFIELD EVANS

GARFIELD EVANS, son of Christian pioneer parents in Florida, received his early education at Florida Southern College and Vanderbilt University. After engaging in teaching in Florida he became one of the Secretaries of the Epworth League Board, having charge of missionary education.

In 1923 he married Christine Stout, a graduate of Scarritt College, and in 1924 they went to Cuba as evangelistic and educational missionaries. The first years were spent in pioneer work in the neglected interior. Then he was placed at the head of Colegio Pinson.

For a time he returned home for reasons of health, but in 1939 he returned to Cuba and was pastor at Camaguey, where he developed extension activities in the surrounding rural districts. Later he reopened several closed churches. He is much interested in the rural education program.

Mrs. Evans graduated in music at Florida Southern College. She served her church and community through the ministry of music, and in Cuba she has done much to develop and direct choir training and congregational singing.

FORTY-FIRST DAY



GERTRUDE ARBOGAST

MISS GERTRUDE ARBOGAST had started on a career of nursing before she thought of going to the foreign field as a missionary. She graduated from the Illinois Masonic Hospital

in 1923, went on to the Chicago Lying-In Hospital for further training the next year and entered her chosen field.

It was not until 1930 that she applied for work as a contract teacher to teach public health in Mexico City. Five years later she applied for the full status and was accepted as a full-fledged missionary.

Many missionaries in foreign lands do not think of those lands as places in which to study. Not so Miss Arbogast. She decided if she were to make a contribution in teaching public health she must learn what Mexican doctors themselves had to teach her. Accordingly she enrolled in the University of Mexico for public health education courses.

Today Miss Arbogast is teaching public health education in Union Theological Seminary in Mexico City and carrying out her teaching in city dispensary work. Through her the young ministers or women workers who are about to go out into the villages learn the essentials of health education and in a way applicable to the Mexican countryside.

Let us pray that through her teaching the country of Mexico may become a land of people of health.

FORTY-SECOND DAY



LILLIE F. FOX

MISS LILLIE FOX, who is beloved of scores of Methodist people both north and south of the Mexican border, says of her Mexican friends:

"Our Mexican friends I have found loyal, appreciative, and responsive to friendship and Christian love. They make strong Christians and are willing to suffer persecution if necessary. . . . The evangelical way of life is being more and more appreciated and followed."

In 1909 Miss Fox entered the home mission field as a teacher in Ruth Hargrove Seminary in Key West, Florida. The next year she was transferred to Fort Worth, Texas, to pioneer the diverse career of a city deaconess. In 1912, at the request of Miss Belle Bennett, Miss Fox accepted an appointment to Mary Keener Institute in Mexico City.

When the Christian Center in Chihuahua was opened, Miss Fox was appointed head resident, and she served there for fifteen years. In 1934 she was sent to reorganize work in Saltillo. At present she has a special assignment, writing the history of the work of the women of the Methodist Church in Mexico.

A friend and fellow-worker of Miss Fox's once said of her: "She has a special talent for friendship." The truth of this tribute is attested by her many friends in both Mexico and the United States.

FORTY-THIRD DAY



PAUL. D. MITCHELL

WHEN he chose the ministry as his profession Paul D. Mitchell followed in the footsteps not only of his father, a Methodist minister in Oklahoma for forty-eight years, but also

his grandfather and his great-grandfather, who were also ministers.

Born in the district parsonage at Mangum, Oklahoma, on August 29, 1912, he was received into the church by his father when only seven years old. After receiving his early education in the public schools of Oklahoma he was awarded an A.B. and a B.D. degree from Southern Methodist University. He majored in Missions and his thesis entitled "Modern Missionary Motivation" was published as a missionary cultivation booklet.

Mr. Mitchell was appointed a missionary to Cuba in 1937 and was adopted as a Special of the Boston Avenue Methodist Church, Tulsa, Oklahoma. He served as professor in the Theological Seminary in Havana, at the same time acting as pastor of churches. In 1941 he became Dean of the Seminary. He still serves as pastor and is a contributing editor to the church school publication, "Revista Trimestral." He exerts a strong influence on the young men in Cuba who are preparing to become ministers of the gospel. He has done some translating of books, articles, and other matter. He is unmarried and lives in the Seminary building in Havana.

FORTY-FOURTH DAY



MARGARET M. RUE

THROUGH the years the Scripture verse "Commit thy way unto the Lord," has meant much to Miss Margaret Rue. The call to go to the mission field came in childhood through interest created by her pastor-father.

Miss Rue had "almost twenty years of wonderful experiences" in China before her recent return to the States. In speaking of her present work, she says:

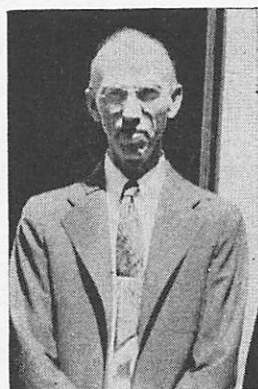
"Since it is impossible for me to return to China now the work with Latin-Americans in Ozona, Texas, has made a deep appeal. There is a splendid group here that looks to the community center for guidance. The kindergarten, the clubs for boys and girls, the cooking, sewing, choral, citizenship, English, and art classes interest all ages.

"This work was started by Miss Mary Riddle about five years ago and now the joy of harvest has begun.

"Recently the highest award of merit that can be given to a group of Boy Scouts was bestowed upon the Latin-American Scouts of Ozona, for their district which includes all the Scouts in fifty-eight counties.

"The new Christian standards are carried to the homes and to the sheep-shearing camps. Loyalty and love for the center are shown day by day in the letters that come back from the sixty-one Latin-American boys who have gone out to fight for a better world."

FORTY-FIFTH DAY



BRUCE R. CAMPBELL

PUERTO RICO has long been a territory of the United States. Yet missionaries, travelers, and authors still today find its people sunk in abject poverty and disease, amidst unbe-

lievable filth.

To aid in meeting this appalling need in Puerto Rico is the Methodist mission. Founded in 1900, there are now 3,188 full members of the church and fifty-five churches. Today, besides Methodist preaching places, there are the George O. Robinson School for Girls and the Student Center at the University of Puerto Rico, parts of Methodist work on the island.

The Puerto Rico Mission has been working under unmistakable odds, but Dr. Bruce R. Campbell and his staff of co-workers have helped the people to find a new faith in life, and their efforts are bearing fruit.

Dr. Campbell has served at Ponca as superintendent of the Southern District, as pastor of Trinity Church, and superintendent of the Central District, and is now superintendent of the whole mission.

*Dr. Campbell, as head of the Puerto Rico Mission, was included in THE UNSEEN GUEST, VOLUME 1. This biographical note is included here in order to make the picture of Methodist missions in the Caribbean area complete.

FORTY-SIXTH DAY



EMMA J. BRANDEBERRY

OUR guest today, Miss Emma J. Brandeberry, has asked that her place be taken by other guests. They are the babies who have been well-born and have kept strong through the service of the Freeman Clinic and Newark Conference Maternity Hospital of which she is superintendent.

Some years ago the visitors of the Rose Gregory Houchen Settlement in El Paso, Texas, decided that too many babies were dying, too many mothers were growing old before their time in the Mexican district in which they worked. As a result, an old tenement building was taken down, and a clinic was opened. As the years went by, and the work developed, a maternity ward was opened. But it was not until 1937, sixteen years after the clinic was opened, that a real hospital and completely equipped clinic were possible.

On the first opening the whole Mexican community came to see their hospital. One father painted a health picture for the waiting room. In the first six months, seventy-five boys and girls were born safely into this world. Seventy-five mothers left the hospital with training in the care of babies and with the realization that the clinic and hospital were standing ready to serve them as their babies grew up.

Let us pray today that these boys and girls of Mexican parentage may continue to be strong and well and that they will devote their strength to the achievement of a better world.

FORTY-SEVENTH DAY

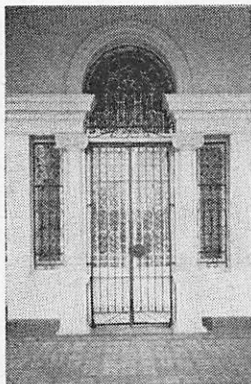


L. B. NEWBERRY

WHILE attending Southwestern University L. B. Newberry was led to give his life to the service of the Lord in Mexico. His vision of God's will was so clear and his call so strong and convincing that although forty years have passed he has never doubted for a moment that his call was from above. On November 15, 1906, he crossed the Rio Grande to take up his life work in Mexico. Probably few young men have ever gone to a foreign country with a stronger resolution and more determined will to give their all. Shortly after he reached Mexico an armed revolution broke out which spread throughout the country, causing destruction and great suffering. This was a time of danger and uncertainty but Mr. Newberry stood by his post of duty. He now looks back upon this period as the time when he passed through some of the richest experiences in the Lord's service.

The first self-supporting school in Mexico was established by him and at a time when the Mission Boards were unable to carry on he succeeded in placing the publications of the Sunday school literature on a self-supporting basis. Through his efforts much Christian literature has been put into circulation and a large quantity of Bibles, Testaments, and tracts have been distributed. In 1923, due to the laws which prevented him exercising his ministerial functions, he assumed the status of a layman. For the past eight years he has not accepted any compensation from the Board for his services.

FORTY-EIGHTH DAY



LUCILE LEWIS

MISS LUCILE LEWIS, a native of Georgia, was a teacher in *Colegio Buena-vista* in Havana, Cuba, for nine years before it became necessary for her to return to her home in the States. She is back in Cuba now doing social work in Pinar del Rio, a city of 35,000 people and the capital of the province having the same name. Miss Lewis is living in the Methodist Dispensary from which she goes out to visit among the people of the neighborhood. Always she is discovering some new, helpful way of serving them. In the dispensary she assists in giving injections; and she seeks through the morning devotions to help the patients spiritually, telling them of the Great Physician. After they have been treated she visits them, and in co-operation with groups of young people from the church sometimes holds services with different families. She and other Christian workers of the city make weekly visits to a tobacco factory, where they hold religious services with as many of the 260 women working there as may be interested. The eagerness of the women to learn hymns bespeaks their appreciation of this work.

No one loves Cuba and the Cuban people more than does Miss Lewis, and no missionary is more beloved by the people whom she serves than is she. Let us pray that in her new work she may have God's guidance and grace.

FORTY-NINTH DAY



THELMA HEATH

KINDERGARTEN teaching is the field of special service through which Miss Thelma Heath has made a splendid contribution to Christian education in the Wesley House community of Nashville, Tennessee, and of Wolff Settlement community in Tampa, Florida.

It was while Miss Heath was teaching a first grade in a mill town in north Georgia that she became interested in settlement work, through observing the program carried on in a community house supported by the mill officials. She resolved to prepare for a more definite Christian service, and in 1929 she entered Scarritt College for Christian Workers. After a two-year course at Scarritt and at Peabody College, she began work as a deaconess under the former Woman's Missionary Council, as a kindergarten teacher.

The work of a settlement kindergarten teacher includes special classes with kindergarteners' mothers, and in this type of adult education and cultivation, Miss Heath has been a successful leader. Both children and grown-ups respond readily to the charm of her soft Southern voice, her gentle ways, and her genuine interest in them.

Miss Heath is now head resident of Wolff Settlement.

FIFTIETH DAY



CLAUDE R. KELLOGG

WHEN Claude R. Kellogg, a native of Minneapolis, Minnesota, went to Mexico as an agricultural missionary he was not inexperienced in this kind of work, having spent more than twenty years as a "pioneer" agricultural worker in China. In telling about his work in Funkien Christian University in Foochow he says, "A small experiment station was maintained and there were worked out important methods of agriculture for local use and these methods were then demonstrated in the villages. Selected seeds, improved strains of poultry, and modern beekeeping methods were introduced."

Not being able on account of the war to continue his work in China, Mr. Kellogg at present is working in Mexico and carrying on the same type of work in agriculture, ably assisted by his wife. Through the organization of corn clubs, institutes and individual visits the church members and their friends in the villages are being helped to increase their corn crops through selection. Poultry improvement is being accomplished through the trading of eggs from pure bred hens for eggs from the village hens and through the teaching of better methods of caring for the chickens. Modern beehives are being placed in the villages for demonstration and queen bees from the best apiaries in the United States are being imported to improve the bees. This work is very much needed, the people show a real interest in such plans.

FIFTY-FIRST DAY



ELIZABETH EARNEST

A CONSECRATED grandmother, Christian parents, and friends who were members of her small-town church were the influences that contributed toward Miss Elizabeth Ear-

nest's decision to become a missionary. After two years of study at Scarritt College she went to Cuba in 1929. For eleven years she taught the children in Irene Toland School in Matanzas—kindergarteners, and girls in English and home economics classes. Contacts with these older girls and with the parents of the kindergarten children provided her greatest happiness during those years. Then when Miss Mary Lou White, Head Resident of *Centro Cristiano*, had a furlough, Miss Earnest directed the work of this center. "The year was a very happy one," writes Miss Earnest. "I worked in the church and with the Woman's Society of Christian Service, and with the children and young people in their clubs."

Miss Earnest's next appointment was to rural work in Baguanos, a sugar-mill village. It was while she was there this past January that Miss White of the *centro* became ill. Miss Earnest returned to Matanzas to assume leadership responsibilities of the settlement. The community people have a genuine appreciation of Miss Earnest, and she takes to her task an understanding and patient spirit and love for people. Let us pray that Miss Earnest and her co-workers may be effective in their efforts.

FIFTY-SECOND DAY



REV. JOSE ESPINO

IN the prosecution of the work of the Gospel it is most gratifying when a capable, educated man gives himself to the ministry of the Church.

Rev. Jose Espino completed the necessary theological training for the ministry at Lydia Patterson Institute at El Paso. He was connected with the Institute for a number of years in the capacity of teacher of Spanish, psychology, logic, and public speaking. He entered the pastorate in 1923.

His first charge was in New Mexico; then for two years he served the church at Ciudad Jaurez on the northern frontier of Mexico; then he became pastor of El Mesias, the largest Methodist church for Mexicans in El Paso. In 1933 he was transferred to Mission, Texas, where he reorganized the congregation and erected and dedicated a \$20,000 church building free of debt.

In 1936 Mr. Espino was appointed pastor of the largest Spanish-speaking Methodist church in the United States, La Trinidad, in San Antonio, Texas. He is now District Superintendent of the Southern District of the Southwest Mexican Conference.

In all of his appointments he has rendered outstanding service, especially in the field of evangelism.

FIFTY-THIRD DAY



ANNE DEAVOURS

MISS ANNE DEAVOURS interprets the scriptural "Who is my neighbor?" in a very excellent and satisfactory manner in the rural village of General Teran, forty miles south of

Monterrey, Mexico. She explains:

"As friends we live, work and play together. I spend much time in the homes. A visit may be spent talking about nothing in particular, or in encouraging a patient to consult the doctor . . . or persuading a patient to make a trip to the clinic in Monterrey, or helping plan a party, a wedding or a dress. A visit may be spent in advising about the care of sick chickens or pigs, or in washing and treating infected eyes or ears; it may be that my visits are for the purpose of distributing small papaya plants from my garden, or for cutting a child's hair, or for soliciting help on one of my projects, or for distributing books from my circulating 'library' of eight books, plus the *Readers' Digest* in Spanish."

Miss Deavours received her education at Randolph-Macon Woman's College and Scarritt Bible and Training School. She was appointed to Mexico in 1923, and she has served at Durango, Monterrey, and General Teran. From 1925 to 1928 she worked under the church in Havana, Cuba.

Let us remember in special prayer today the work of Miss Deavours as she witnesses for Christ in the village streets and in the country lanes of this rural section of northern Mexico.

FIFTY-FOURTH DAY



M. C. DAILY

AS one of the younger evangelistic missionaries of The Methodist Church, M. C. Daily is serving in Cuba as pastor of three churches and seven missions and preaching points which are reached either by bus, launch, train, horseback, or on foot. Traveling from thirty to fifty miles and preaching five nights a week, Mr. Daily is truly a modern circuit rider.

Graduating from Emory University at a time when missionaries were being called home, he did not at once apply for missionary work, although from the very beginning of his ministry he felt a strong desire to the mission field. When he was asked to go to Cuba as a missionary he married Miss Dorothy Tinsley, in August, 1936, and they set out for their new work. Mrs. Daily is his "strongest helper" and has done a great deal of work, especially among the young people in local church work.

At Mayari, in the extreme end of the Island, this enthusiastic young minister has succeeded in establishing a mission church, three church schools, two intermediate camps, the first ever held in Cuba, he has also built a new parsonage at Mayari.

FIFTY-FIFTH DAY



ELMA MORGAN

THERE was a time when home and foreign mission service were two distinct and separate things, served by two distinct and separate types of workers. As time has gone on, we have become more and more conscious of the fact that the mission field is one field and that often a worker is more valuable at home because she has served in mission work abroad—or is more valuable abroad because she has served in the homeland.

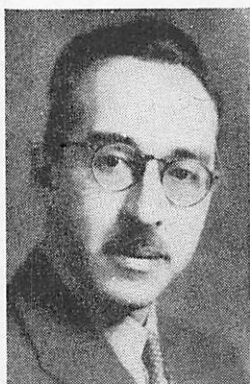
Miss Elma Morgan is a missionary who has served both at home and abroad. She started her work in 1915 as a teacher in Collegio Americano, Porto Allegro, Brazil. Six years later she came home to work in settlement houses in the South, which served, for the most part, Latin American children.

Since 1936 she has been serving at the Wesley House in Houston, Texas.

She says: "Each place of service has seemed to me the most challenging. It is impossible to give adequate expression to the esteem I have for the different peoples among whom I have had the privilege of living and working. Love of the people, their languages and customs, has been easy, whether among Brazilians, Cubans, Italians, or Mexicans.

Pray that the interest Miss Morgan has in all peoples may become the universal possession of men and women everywhere.

FIFTY-SIXTH DAY



PROF. G. BAEZ CAMARGO

A LEADER, educator, and author, Gonzalo Baez Camargo, present executive secretary of the National Christian Council of the Evangelical Churches of Mexico, brings to his post fine ex-

perience, faith, and vitality.

A native of Oaxaca, Mexico, he was educated at the Normal School in Puebla and in the Union Theological Seminary of Mexico City. He was formerly professor and vice-president of the Mexican Methodist Institute at Puebla, Mexico and is now general secretary of Christian Education for Mexico.

Professor Camargo was chosen as one of the twelve lecturers at the Conference on Christian Bases of World Order at Delaware, Ohio, March, 1943. Speaking of Christianity and the Race Problem at the Conference, Professor Camargo professed the belief that, "There is no other body in the world today for which the duty to lead the way towards the solving of the race problem becomes more imperative than the Church. The Church is in possession of a faith and a teaching in which the essential unity of the human race and the longing to see it develop into a real brotherhood of love, is a central element; in fact, its very substance. The root and motive of this faith are laid much deeper than is the case with any non-Christian and purely humanitarian ethics. This faith is rooted in and motivated by the love of God."

FIFTY-SEVENTH DAY



FRANCES GABY

THERE is never a dull moment in the lives of Methodist missionaries in rural Cuba, according to their reports. Miss Frances Gaby, who helped pioneer Methodist work in Omaja, Oriente,

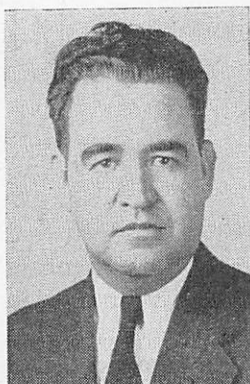
says of her work:

"The program is varied and intensely interesting. It includes pastoral work such as holding religious services, conducting funerals, visiting in the homes, and working with young people and children. Because of bad roads we travel by horseback into some of the outlying country districts, to visit and to hold prayer meetings—sometimes by moonlight. We sponsor a small clinic for needy patients of this community. We are trying to build up a wholesome kind of community social life for our young people—a much-needed service here. This we try to accomplish in terms of picnics, parties and games, young people's church meetings and clubs; and in teaching our boys and girls how to assist in Christian service for less fortunate people."

It was at an Epworth League Assembly at Belton, Texas, in 1921, that Miss Gaby became interested in mission work. She attended Texas Woman's College at Ft. Worth. She first went to Cuba as a contract teacher at Pinson College in Camaguey, but later became a full-fledged missionary.

Let us pray today for the work of Miss Gaby, and of her able co-worker, Miss Sara Fernandez, as they go about their inspiring community work in and about Omaja.

FIFTY-EIGHTH DAY



ALFREDO NAÑEZ

GOD moves in a mysterious way
His wonders to perform."

Alfred Nañez came to the United States in 1923 with the intention of staying one year and returning to Mexico to continue his studies, but he was converted and decided to enter the ministry.

He attended Wesleyan Institute, a Methodist school in San Antonio. He received the Bachelor of Arts degree from Southwestern University and his Bachelor of Divinity degree from Southern Methodist University.

He entered the Texas Mexican Mission on trial in 1924, and has served several charges and as district superintendent. In 1939 he became Educational Secretary for the two border conferences, and since unification he has been Conference Missionary. He does field work, strives to develop leadership in the churches, holds institutes and training classes, and places emphasis on vacation church schools.

His wife serves as his secretary and translates songs for choirs, hymns for children, and material for special programs. She is a graduate of the University of Texas and is now director of children's work in the conference.

FIFTY-NINTH DAY



MARY NORRIS PEARSON

GUANAJUATO, MEXICO, seems a far cry from a little New England town, but Miss Mary Pearson calls them both home. It is not surprising. New Englanders, from their earliest

seafaring days, have always been citizens of the world.

It might seem to the casual eye that Guanajuato had little in common with New England. Miss Pearson discovered that the people she worked with in Guanajuato were very much like the ones she had worked with during her home service in Boston. Certain experiences she had had in her early life, also, prepared her for her work in Mexico. As a girl she had had to make or remodel the clothes she wore. She writes:

"I always enjoyed making things over, which perhaps accounts for my contentment in missionary work. We certainly have plenty of things—people too—here to remodel. It's a great satisfaction to help young lives to develop so they will be a blessing to humanity."

For the past two years Miss Pearson has been house mother in the Methodist school in Guanajuato.

Let us pray in her joy in her life at Guanajuato she will pass on her own world-mindedness to the girls in her care.

SIXTIETH DAY



REV. O. K. HOPKINS

REV. AND MRS. O. K. HOPKINS went to Cuba as missionaries in 1909 and served faithfully and successfully until they entered the retired relation in 1943.

Mr. Hopkins was educated at Vanderbilt University and joined the South Georgia Conference in 1902. He met Miss Sara Barr at a Student Volunteer Convention and they were married and jointly dedicated their lives to missionary service in Cuba. Their first work was in Camaguey, where, after an intensive study of the Spanish language, he became pastor of the Cuban congregation and Principal of Colegio Inglés, now known as Pinson College.

Across the years Mr. Hopkins did the work of preacher, evangelist, and educator. He served in Camaguey, Santiago, Cienfuegos, and Havana. For eighteen years he was a district superintendent and at the same time serves as pastor. He was ten years Principal of the Central Methodist School in Havana.

"During all this time," he says, "my wife was an active helper, making friends among the people and organizing the women of the churches. Her interest in the work sprang from the deep convictions of her soul and her activities have been the sincere expression of her love for the Master and for those He came to serve."

SIXTY-FIRST DAY



CAROLINE PORTER

WHEN Miss Caroline Porter's sister left as a missionary to Mexico it was with the promise that the younger sister could join her as soon as she had graduated from the Woman's College

at Meridian, Mississippi. But when Miss Porter went to join her sister in Durango, Mexico, the Mexican Revolution was in full sway. It seemed better to return home.

Although Miss Porter turned to teaching, and later worked in the War Department at Washington, the dream of missionary service did not die. When the opportunity came she took training for full-time Christian work and after the training she went to work among the Cuban girls in Wolff Settlement, Tampa, Florida. Later she served in San Antonio and El Paso, Texas, in Mexican communities.

Today she is serving as head resident of the Homer Toberman Settlement in San Pedro, California. "Here in the midst of forty nationalities," she says, "we find great opportunity for building good will among our neighbors. We learn to appreciate the sturdiness of the Yugo-Slavian, the honesty of the Scandinavian, the eagerness of the Filipino, the thrift of the Italian, the loyalty of the Negro and the gaiety of the Islander.

"We gain more than we give in Homer Toberman for from our neighbors we benefit culturally, educationally, and spiritually as we attempt to make our social passion an expression of religion.

SIXTY-SECOND DAY



J. P. HAUSER*

I AM sure we will want to take part in the Week of Dedication."

Thus wrote the Rev. J. P. Hauser, concerning Methodism's great week of reconsecration and sacrificial giving in

March, 1943, and thus is reflected the spirit of the church with which he is associated in Mexico. Mexican Methodists, although organized into an autonomous church of their own, want to do everything possible to express their fellowship with brother Methodists above the Rio Grande. When the bishops called the church to rededication and sacrifice early in 1943, a part of the response to their call came from Mexico.

Mr. Hauser is treasurer of the Methodist mission in Mexico, and has a hand in many of the activities—conferences, school work, church building, publications, ministerial training—of the Mexican church. He is ably assisted in directing the mission office and in publishing the handsome little quarterly of Mexican Methodism, called *Mexico*, by his wife. Mrs. Hauser is a teacher at the seminary and active in women's work.

The Hausers are veterans of the Mexican mission, have been there for forty years.

*Mr. and Mrs. Hauser were included in the first volume of THE UNSEEN GUEST. They are mentioned here again in order to keep the list of personnel in Latin American countries complete in this volume.

SIXTY-THIRD DAY



IONE CLAY

MISS CLAY is the principal of our girls' school in Havana, Cuba. She possesses all the dignity, poise, scholarship, and loyalty to her task that anyone might desire for the *directora* of a girls' private school of distinction. And this is what Miss Clay has made of *Colegio Buenavista*, a school that is a leader among the educational institutions of a great city; it sets standards for other schools. The girls of Buenavista are as trim in their uniforms and as proper in their manners as young students can well be. Among the courses offered at this school are Bible, home economics, music, Latin, English, and Spanish, and a number of commercial classes. Before Miss Clay became principal of *Colegio Buenavista* in 1924, she had taught in the Eliza Bowman School for girls in Matanzas, Cuba, and had served as teacher and principal of *Instituto Ingles-Español*, in Monterrey, Mexico. In the midst of school responsibilities Miss Clay finds time to teach a church-school class, to co-operate with the local Woman's Society of Christian Service, and to prepare church-school lessons in Spanish for the *Revista Trimestral*.

Other missionaries working with Miss Clay at *Colegio Buenavista* are Miss Etha Nagler and Miss Minta Stahl, formerly of China; and Miss Ruth Diggs, formerly of Korea.

Let us pray that Miss Clay and her co-workers may continue to make of *Colegio Buenavista* a school of Christian living.

SIXTY-FOURTH DAY



LYDIA PATTERSON INSTITUTE

MRS. R. E. STEVENSON
ESTILL ALLEN, JR.
P. A. GROUT
MISS HAZE McALLISTER

JOE GUTIERREZ
MISS JEANETTE HOFFMAN
MISS ROSA GUTIERREZ
MRS. EMMETT REESE

THESE are the missionary workers at the Lydia Patterson Institute in El Paso, Texas. J. W. Daniel, President of the school, was formerly a missionary in Brazil, and Ben O. Hill, Director of Ministerial Training, served in Cuba, they are mentioned elsewhere in this book.

There is no other Methodist institution in this country like Lydia Patterson Institute. There are other schools serving the Latin American people, but no other has a theological department for the education of Spanish-speaking preachers. There are a hundred or more Spanish-speaking charges in the Southwest and the importance of a seminary to train pastors for them is obvious.

Lydia Patterson has trained scores of these preachers. Some of them are now serving in Mexico and the Central American countries. Its further service is greatly needed and Methodists should pray earnestly for the institution and its staff.

SIXTY-FIFTH DAY



EDNA POTHOFF

IN 1923 Miss Edna Pothoff left Scarritt College to begin her service as a nurse in Mexico. Today, after having served at Monterrey Hospital until the hospital was closed, she is head of the

Sanatorio in Palmore.

The Sanatorio Palmore is the only Methodist medical project in Mexico today except for some clinics in rural centers. Under the direction of Miss Pothoff the Sanatorio has cared for, during the past year, nine thousand inpatients and three thousand outpatients. Its school of nursing has today received federal recognition and has been incorporated into the National University of Mexico. During the past year Miss Pothoff saw twenty-one girls trained to go out into nursing in the Mexican villages and towns.

Today may we pray that Miss Pothoff and her associates may never falter in holding up the high standard of nursing that they have held so steadfastly. May we pray that they be given great strength to continue their work of healing.

SIXTY-SIXTH DAY



DR. CARL D. STEWART

DR. CARL DEVOE STEWART is a Georgian, with degrees from Emory University, the University of Denver, and the Iliff School of Theology. His first pastorate was at Moultrie Circuit in Georgia. He married Miss Miriam Sara Thacker, missionary by inheritance and disposition, and she influenced the young preacher to become a missionary. Her father was for many years an outstanding missionary in Mexico. She holds degrees from Henderson-Brown College and the University of Southern California, and was a student of theology at Emory University when she met her future husband.

Their first missionary appointment was at Lydia Patterson Institute at El Paso, Texas, in 1929. They went to Cuba in 1931 where Dr. Stewart became pastor of the Isle of Pines. During the ten years spent there a new church, parsonage, and school were erected and a chain of Methodist churches established across the island that required the services of four ministers.

Dr. Stewart has also served as district superintendent, professor in the Methodist Theological Seminary at Havana, and Dean of the Cuba Pastors' Institute.

SIXTY-SEVENTH DAY

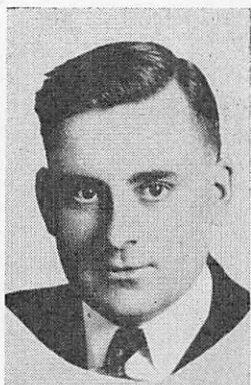


BERNICE HUFF

MISS BERNICE HUFF, missionary to Puerto Rico, thinks that perhaps the visits of a China missionary uncle in her Kansas childhood home may have caused her to want to become a missionary. In 1926 she enrolled in the Woman's Home Missionary Society, and became the kindergarten training teacher in the Lucy Webb Hayes National Training School in Washington, D. C., until it closed in 1936. When in that same year she was offered the kindergarten supervising position in San Juan, Puerto Rico, she accepted it. Miss Huff writes as follows about her experience in Puerto Rico:

"I have lived at Robinson School for the past six years. There are six kindergartens on the island in connection with the school, four of them near San Juan and two out in the island. I teach in the McKinley School, in San Juan and supervise the Puerto Rican teachers in the other churches. The total enrolment is about 275 children. Our boys and girls come from poor homes, but they find in our school a clean, pleasant place with a program and equipment suited to their needs. Each school is located in one of our churches, so that we can co-operate in building the church membership for the future. Since the beautiful new building has been in process of construction, our Robinson family—there are nine girls here who have no other home—has lived in the house in the yard of the school. As the building lacks some vital, unobtainable items, the opening date is uncertain."

SIXTY-EIGHTH DAY



REV. ROBERT C. EAKER

YOUNG, energetic, with only three and a half years' experience to his credit, Robert C. Eaker and his family are carrying the banner for Methodism in Costa Rica. This small isthmus republic, washed by both Atlantic and Pacific waters, is about the size of West Virginia. The Eakers have been there, working among the people—clerks in the business houses of San Jose, coffee plantation workers, banana and cocoa producers, miners—since 1941 when they transferred from Panama.

The Rev. Mr. Eaker is a native of Iowa, although his missionary career in Central America has been largely sponsored and supported by California Methodists. He was trained at Taylor University, Upland, Indiana, the University of Iowa and the Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley.

Mrs. Eaker, who shares her husband's work in San Jose, their home, is a registered nurse, a graduate of the Good Samaritan Hospital in Portland, Oregon. They have three children.

Mr. and Mrs. Eaker first sailed for Central America in October of 1939. Costa Rica had been opened to Methodist missions in 1918, but left without a resident missionary in 1932 because of inadequate funds. Bishop George A. Miller, who personally founded the mission in 1918, was as responsible as any other single man for the efforts which resulted in the Eakers' appointment to San Jose in 1941.

SIXTY-NINTH DAY



MARY WOODARD

IN telling why she went to Cuba, Miss Mary Woodard said: "For some-time I had felt an urge and a desire to work in a foreign country. One day on seeing in the New Orleans *Christian*

Advocate a notice that *Colegio Buenavista* in Havana, Cuba, needed a music teacher, I immediately put in my application. Very soon to my great joy and surprise I received an appointment there.

"I came out on a three-year contract in 1925. At the end of the three years I was asked if I would like to extend my contract for two more years. At the end of the five years I was given full missionary standing.

"Up until the fall of 1939 I taught music and English at *Colegio Buenavista* and then, when the furlough of the acting *directora* fell due, I was asked to substitute for her until her return, which I did with fear and trembling.

"Last year I was transferred to Cienfuegos to act as *directora* of Eliza Bowman, which is our beautiful girls' school on the southern coast of Cuba."

Miss Woodard is much beloved by both pupils and co-workers and is rendering excellent service to Cuba and the church. Let us pray today for the workers at Eliza Bowman School. Besides the *directora*, other missionaries there are Miss Marie Crone, Miss Mattie Lou Neal, Miss Barbara May Bailey, and Miss Jane Smith.

SEVENTIETH DAY



THE LATIN AMERICAN PROVISIONAL CONFERENCE

VERNON M. MCCOMBS
J. SCOTT WILLMARTH

Superintendent
Assistant Superintendent

THERE are nearly two million Spanish-speaking persons in the population of the United States today. And with the current shortage of farm manpower, there are strong efforts being made to increase the immigration of Mexicans and other Central Americans into our Southwest. Let us pray for fellowship with these friends from across the southern border of our land.

Largely Roman Catholic in religion, there is a growing trend among Spanish Americans toward an evangelical faith and toward the use of Protestant churches as an expression of their community. As an illustration of this trend are the nine thousand and more Methodists among this national group in the Southwest.

The Latin American Provisional Conference, superintended by one of Methodism's most colorful missionaries, the Rev. Vernon M. McCombs,* embraces the work carried on among Latin Americans in California and Arizona. There are half a million Spanish-speaking people within the boundaries of the conference. Among them Methodism has some seventy-four preaching places, and there are over fifty members of the conference.

*Dr. McCombs was described in THE UNSEEN GUEST, Volume I. His name is included here in order to give a rounded picture of Methodist work among Latin Americans, both inside and outside the United States.

SEVENTY-FIRST DAY



MAMIE THELMA BAIRD

MISS MAMIE BAIRD was teaching in a rural school in Michigan when she heard a Thank Offering address which was to change her whole life. It was an address by Miss Lizzie Hewitt of

Crandon Institute, Montevideo, Uruguay. It influenced Miss Baird so that she was determined from that moment on that she would become a missionary.

After some years of training, Miss Baird was sent in 1926 to serve in the Industrial School in Mexico City. The first thing that struck her about the school was that, although eighty per cent of the girls came from the country villages, none of them were preparing to go back to raise the standards of the places from which they came.

At once Miss Baird began planning to do something for village life. After further training, she was finally appointed to Cortazar, one of the outposts of Methodism in the Central Conference.

It was not an easy post. Any word that might be construed as Protestant teaching sent the villagers scurrying away. But service prevailed. Today the village people turn to Miss Baird for everything from "asking for a girl bride" to aid in understanding the things of the spirit.

"Loving service," she writes, "in the spirit of Christ will convince when no spoken word would be received."

SEVENTY-SECOND DAY



REV. M. B. STOKES

DR. AND MRS. STOKES are on the Isle of Pines, Cuba, where he is pastor of the American churches and seven Cuban congregations, and also teacher of English and Bible at the Colegio Metodista in Nueva Gerona. They have done most of their missionary work in Korea, and were transferred to Cuba after it became necessary to withdraw all American missionaries from Korea in 1940.

They went to Korea from North Carolina in 1907. In that country Dr. Stokes was pastor, district superintendent, General Secretary of the Sunday School Association, Superintendent of the Seoul City Mission, Principal of a high school, teacher in the Seminary, and general evangelist.

He was educated at Wofford College and Emory University and was honored with the degree of Doctor of Divinity by Asbury College.

Dr. and Mrs. Stokes have four sons, all in the Methodist ministry. One is a pastor, another is a chaplain in the navy, another is assistant professor of Christian Doctrine at Emory University, and the fourth is a missionary.

Speaking of his work in Cuba, Dr. Stokes says: "My knowledge of Spanish is not as good as my knowledge of Korean and I cannot yet hold revival meetings. This is for me a great deprivation, for during thirty years that was my major interest."

SEVENTY-THIRD DAY



HELEN ALDRICH

MISS HELEN ALDRICH is the principal of the Frances DePauw School for Mexican girls in Los Angeles, California. She was born and reared in Minnesota and received her

training at St. Cloud State Teachers' College. After eight years of teaching in the schools of Minnesota and Montana, Miss Aldrich taught eight years in Frances DePauw School before becoming the superintendent there in 1938. She writes:

"Perhaps my greatest joy comes from seeing the development that takes place in our girls. They come to us in the fall timid, often undernourished, and lacking in initiative. As we teach and train them, it is with joy that we see them develop like flowers, growing in grace, in knowledge, and in faith in God and in their fellow-comrades. As they fit themselves into useful places in life, we—the other members of the staff and I—lift our hearts in gratitude for the small part we may have had in their development. Each year there are ninety-five girls to be guided into a more abundant way of life. As no two girls are alike, patience and more patience, faith in one another, and guidance from the Holy Spirit are needed daily, but every day is a glorious day, and my only regret is that I did not enter this work earlier."

Let us pray that Miss Aldrich may have the spiritual qualities of life and the strength she needs for her important work.

SEVENTY-FOURTH DAY



REV. J. S. OXFORD

REV. J. S. OXFORD is a missionary assigned to Panama. His experience in Central America has not been long, however, because he was transferred to that field from Japan on account of

the war.

The Oxfords went from Texas to Japan in 1910 and for thirty years were among the most efficient and devoted missionaries of The Methodist Church. During the last years of service there Mr. Oxford was Principal of Palmore Institute at Kobe. This institution is a school of considerable importance and influence which through the years has trained a large number of Japanese young people. An interesting feature of the work at Palmore Institute is the English night school in which from 350 to 400 students study the English language. The Institute also had a commercial department for the training of office workers and those interested in a business career.

When it appeared that war between the United States and Japan was not likely to be averted it became necessary for all American missionaries in Japan to leave the country. The Oxfords came home and in due course were transferred to Central America. Wherever they may be it is certain that they will successfully and sacrificially carry on the work which the Church has committed to them.

SEVENTY-FIFTH DAY



MARY LOU WHITE

MISS MARY LOU WHITE was a missionary to China for nineteen years before she went to Cuba. She was a teacher in Virginia School in Huchow; in Davidson School and in Laura Hay-

good School in Soochow; and in McTyeire School in Shanghai. She taught some of almost everything. With real appreciation Miss White recalls the love of her Chinese pupils and their responsiveness to spiritual things. As the Revolution of 1926-1927 caught Miss White at home on furlough and she was prevented from returning immediately to China, she was "lent" to Cuba. Her assignment to *Colegio Buena-vista* for a year soon lengthened into five years. Then she was asked to become the head resident of *Centro Cristiano*, the Christian community center in Matanzas. This responsibility included not only the usual program of clubs, classes, and a playground, but also helping to formulate and promote the program of the church, which is an integral part of the settlement work. How grateful Miss White has felt when she has seen a change for good come over the lives of the neighborhood children! And how she has enjoyed working with the *Centro* staff! Just about a month after Christmas of this year Miss White became seriously ill. She is improving now, but for a while she will not be able to resume her work. Let us give thanks for her years of devoted service to China and Cuba and pray that during these days of enforced rest she may be comforted and given renewed strength.

SEVENTY-SIXTH DAY



REV. DOMINGO MARRERO

DOMINGO MARRERO and his wife are helping the Protestant students at the Univeristy of Puerto Rico gain a self-respect for their ideals and faith, and to the work creatively with

no feeling of inferiority because they are a minority group.

As minister of the student foundation at the university, he is able to help hundreds of students, regardless of their faith, clear up confusion in thier thinking about religion and thereby free their emotions and energies for finer living.

As a child of five, Rev. Marrero persuaded his Catholic mother to let him go to a United Brethren Sunday school, and he was a member of this church in Ponce until he was founteen. A missionary in the church encouraged and helped him financially to graduate from high school, and during this time he transferred his membership to the Methodist Church in Aguirre.

He entered Union Theological Seminary at San Juan in 1926, and was graduated in 1929. He continued his studies in the University of Puerto Rico. He made such a fine record at the university that the professors wanted to send him on a scholarship to Spain, but his heart was in the ministry, so he joined the Methodist Conference.

After two pastorates, he was called to a near-by island, Santo Domingo, and stayed there three years. And then he returned to Puerto Rico and his present position in 1938.

SEVENTY-SEVENTH DAY



HELEN HODGSON

MOST of the missionaries who went to Mexico in the nineteen-twenties went as teachers. Miss Helen Hodgson who took up service in 1926, is no exception. She loves teaching and thinks

that perhaps one of the happiest times of her life was the two years she spent in Saltillo where she taught Bible to Normal School girls.

"It was a constant inspiration," she writes, "to be able to touch young people who were going out to be teachers in all parts of Mexico."

Today the social centers are being stressed more than teaching in the Mexican missionary work, and Miss Hodgson is just as at home in social work. In the big industrial city of Monterrey she is giving almost all her time to the Centro Social.

"The mayor of the city and the superintendent of education," she writes, "have given us permission year after year to tell character-building stories in the public schools and to do playground work and story-telling in the parks. We haven't had to go out and hunt people. They come to us."

From those meetings in schools and in parks and with people of Monterrey, Miss Hodgson brings back to the church a great richness. May the church study how that wealth may be used for the advancement of God's world.

SEVENTY-EIGHTH DAY



L. H. SNYDER

FEW missionaries have had a more varied experience than the Synders, since they have served in two foreign fields and in several capacities. Mr. Snyder was born in Pennsylvania and

educated at Franklin and Marshall College and Princeton University. Mrs. Snyder is a graduate of Scarritt College and was a missionary in Korea. The Sydners were married on the field.

Mr. Snyder went to Korea as a Y. M. C. A. worker in 1907. He returned to the United States in 1916 and served as Y. M. C. A. Secretary in Baltimore and did educational work in Texas. He returned to Korea as a Methodist missionary in 1922 and until the missionary workers were evacuated he served as Principal of the Songdo Higher Common School, Professor in Chosen Christian College, and Treasurer of the Mission.

When the approach of war made necessary the recall of missionaries Mr. Snyder was a member of the committee which remained in Korea until the last moment. He returned in March, 1941.

But such missionaries could not remain inactive or enter secular pursuits. In January, 1942, they were sent to Cuba, where they are working at the present time. Mr. Snyder is Mission Treasurer and a Professor in Candler College at Havana.

SEVENTY-NINTH DAY



IVA MAYE CARRUTH

TELLING her own story, Miss Iva Maye Carruth writes:

"The challenge of a job-to-be brought me into mission work; love for those who make the challenge has

kept me in it. I came to Harwood Girls' School, Albuquerque, New Mexico, as a music and physical educational director. Twelve years ago there were five piano students, fifteen glee club members, and music classes in the grades. That the girls wanted to learn music and needed only the opportunity is evidenced by the fact that there are now nearly forty piano students, between forty and fifty glee club members, and four new pianos. Edwina, a junior who has had all her training at Harwood, is now assistant to the music teacher. A Solovox and record player have been purchased by a music club of grade children. And Eloisa, a non-singer when she came to Harwood, now leads her dormitory group in songs for evening devotions.

"'Is this really worth the effort?' one may ask. . . . It was Eloisa, having learned the joy of song, who, Christmas week, opened her chubby fist and said, 'Here, Mees C'ruth, thees ess for you.' And there lay the first gift her father had been able to buy. Among my mementos are letters which read: 'Thank you for helping me to appreciate good music. But most of all, thank you for helping me to learn good living.'"

Miss Carruth and her efforts to bring music into the lives of Mexican girls deserve our prayers today.

EIGHTIETH DAY



REV. STERLING A. NEBLETT

MORE than forty years ago I left my native land and came to the hospitable shores of Cuba. . . . I give thanks to God for having permitted me to live, work, and rear my family among the Cuban people." With these words S. A. Neblett expressed his feeling for the people with whom he has worked for so long.

These same Cuban people had just shown their appreciation of him by making him an "adopted son of Marianao," suburb of Havana, in an impressive ceremony of tribute in January, 1943.

Going to Cuba in 1902, Mr. Neblett served as pastor of the Cuban communities in Matanzas, Havana, Camaguey, and Cardenas, as well as the American congregation in Havana. He has given himself principally, however, to literary and educational work, having been one of the founders in 1907 of the magazine, *El Evangelista Cubano*, which he edits to this day. He also founded and edited for many years the Sunday school quarterly, *La Revista Trimestral*. He early became active in Sunday school work and his demonstrated efficiency in this field resulted in his being sent to Europe in 1930 for a year to participate in the reorganization of such work there. For the last 19 years he has been the busy and capable Executive Secretary of the Cuba Conference Board of Education.

EIGHTY-FIRST DAY



REV. ALBERTO B. BAEZ

ALBERTO BAEZ is pastor of the First Spanish Methodist Church in Brooklyn, New York. Behind that statement lies a story full of the drama of personal struggle and achievement.

Born in Mexico of Catholic parents, the little Alberto early became curious about the Protestant church and began to like what he saw there. Then came his father's death and his mother was unable to keep the family together. Sent to a boarding school, he became very unhappy and begged to be allowed to go to a Methodist school in the same town, a school whose open doors had a friendly look to him. In spite of strong opposition from his family, he entered the school and with scholarship help stayed until he was graduated. Following graduation, he began preaching and teaching in his new-found faith, married the daughter of the head of one of the Methodist schools, and when he finally brought his family to the United States he had become principal of the Methodist boys' school in Pachuca.

After a few years spent in Texas as pastor of Mexican congregations in Alice and Corpus Christi, the Baez family came north. Finding no Spanish church in Brooklyn in spite of the large Spanish-speaking population in that area, Mr. Baez set about to organize one. This was in 1919. Today there is an active, flourishing church, with women's societies, youth groups, a summer camp, and no debts.

EIGHTY-SECOND DAY



VIRGINIA BOOTH

MISS VIRGINIA BOOTH was consecrated in 1911, and the following year she went out to Mexico. For a number of years she was connected with Colegio Roberts in Saltillo. As head of the Bible Department there she had a vital part in the training of young women who were preparing to go out as Christian workers. Today, many of "Miss Booth's girls" are deaconesses, teachers, and directors of social institutions. They bear witness to the effectiveness of her Christian devotion to the young people of Mexico.

When, because of government restrictions Colegio Roberts was closed, Miss Booth had to give up her teaching, she gladly entered another type of Christian service. As a social evangelistic worker in Pitiquito, Sonora, she continues to pour out her life and special talents for Mexico and for the church.

Miss Booth is always an inspiration to co-workers as well as to the Mexican people among whom she works.

Let us pray today for Miss Booth and the Christian leaders of the present and of the future whose lives she touches.

EIGHTY-THIRD DAY



REV. RALPH KESSELRING

REV. AND MRS. RALPH KESSELRING are in Central America, but the scene of their first missionary labors was Malaya. That part of the world, however, is occupied by enemy forces

and missionary work is impossible.

Mr. Kesselring is a graduate of North Central College at Naperville, Illinois, and the Chicago Theological Seminary. He went to Ipoh, Federated Malay States, in 1930 and served two terms there. He was an educational missionary; he taught Mathematics, Bible, and English in a boarding school for eight years and was Principal of the Anglo-Chinese School for one year. He was also pastor of the Wesley Methodist Church.

All attempts to return to Malaya proving unsuccessful, the Kesselrings accepted transfer to Central America. They went to San Jose, Costa Rica, in the autumn of 1942 to take charge of the English-speaking Church and study the Spanish language. In this excellent, highly cultured little republic these good missionaries will find ample outlets for their abilities. They should be remembered prayerfully by the church in the United States.

EIGHTY-FOURTH DAY



CLARA CHALMERS

MISS CLARA CHALMERS has been the able principal of *Colegio Irene Toland* for the past eighteen years. During this time under her guidance this school has been true to

the high goals set for it in earlier days. It has an excellent faculty, composed primarily of Cuban men and women of unusual training and ability; it has substantial and attractive buildings, including a beautiful new chapel; it enjoys the high respect of the city of Matanzas; it has an alumnae of Christian young women imbued with the spirit of service.

Two years after going to Cuba, in 1921, Miss Chalmers was placed in charge of the Normal Department of *Colegio Buenavista*, in Havana, where she had the privilege of supervising those girls who were preparing to become Christian teachers in church schools. Some of these young women are now on the faculties of four Methodist schools.

Miss Chalmers considers her most precious experiences those times when she has talked and prayed with her students in an effort to lead them to an acceptance of Christ and his way of life.

Other missionaries at *Colegio Irene Toland* are Miss Augusta Nelson, who has been a capable, devoted teacher there for twenty-two years. Especially fine also is Miss Juanita Kelly, who went to Cuba in 1932. Let us pray today for Miss Chalmers and the other members of the *Colegio Irene Toland* staff, both missionaries and nationals.

EIGHTY-FIFTH DAY



URA LEVERIDGE

MISS URA LEVERIDGE, our prayer special for today, represents to us Holding Institute, on the Mexican border. She tells her own story:

"In 1922 I was consecrated a deaconess and was appointed to Holding Institute, where I have been ever since except for furlough years. Here I have taught a little of nearly everything in the curriculum but primarily English and Bible, and always I have been either a teacher in the Sunday school or a counselor of the Young People's Division. When school closes in May each year I become dietitian for eight or ten weeks, for we have some children who have no other home but Holding and therefore stay here the year round. We try to provide for the physical, mental, social, and spiritual welfare of our boys and girls. Although Holding pupils are predominantly Mexican there are many Anglo-Americans, and through the years we have had Jewish, Arabian, Chinese, and Japanese.

"Graduates of Holding Institute make good citizens. Among them are lawyers, bankers, nurses, teachers, and government workers in Texas and Mexico, and wives of ministers in both countries. The wife of the present Methodist Bishop of Mexico is one of our girls, and Holding's present pastor, Josué Gonzales, is one of our own boys." Miss Leveridge is vitally interested in the welfare of every Holding pupil, and every Holding boy and girl regards her with esteem and affection.

EIGHTY-SIXTH DAY



ELSIE J. KEYSER

I WILL search far before I find a better scout than 'Keyser,' " wrote a traveling woman journalist from America recently after visiting the Seawall School in Panama City and

meeting up with Elsie Janet Keyser, Methodist missionary in action there. Miss Keyser has been in Panama since 1915, and as the reporter wrote in describing her:

"During her vacation last year, Keyser took a trip to Peru. She wasn't content to stick close to the large cities where the hotels are fairly good. Instead she hired an automobile with two adventuresome American college boys, and drove back into real Indian country. Her only regret about the trip is that the doctor wouldn't allow her to continue the trip 13,000 feet up in the mountains to Bolivia. The altitude and Keyser's heart don't agree."

Miss Keyser teaches typing and commercial subjects at the Methodist Seawall School. An experienced photographer, she has watched hundreds of young Panamanians pass through that institution. With a student body of 740 boys and girls, the Methodist school gets its name from the old sea wall upon which it is built. Here Miss Keyser works day after day.

An Indian by birth, Miss Keyser was a deaconess in North America for eight years before she sailed for Panama in 1915. She is the veteran of the Methodist mission in Central America.

EIGHTY-SEVENTH DAY



REV. LEONARD P. ANDERSON

LEONARD ANDERSON and his family were on furlough in February, 1941, when the order was given that all missionaries would have to be withdrawn from Korea. This meant they

could not return to the work which Mr. Anderson had begun in 1914 in the Songdo district of Korea. A native of South Carolina, he had gone directly to Korea on completion of his theological training at Vanderbilt University. For twenty-six years the strong evangelistic zeal for which Mr. Anderson was well-known had characterized his work as a pastor, as district superintendent, and, most recently, as superintendent of Ivey Hospital in Songdo.

But the Andersons have again taken up the work of the Church, this time in Cuba. From their first year in this new and strangely different setting they have written back that they are both devoting themselves exclusively to religious and humanitarian work. They are stationed in Cienfuegos, on the south coast of Cuba, facing the Caribbean.

The adjustment which the Andersons and other missionaries have had to face, uprooted from their homes and their work by the crisis of war is a difficult one. It is hard to comprehend the immense measure of strength they have had to exert to begin, as they have with such courage and faith, a new task in their lives of service. Pray for them.

EIGHTY-EIGHTH DAY



REV. EZRA BAUMAN

IN the heart of the sugar beet country Ezra Bauman travels 130 miles down the South Platte Valley, Colorado, and 85 miles into western Nebraska, giving his Spanish-speaking neighbors faith in the gospel and the ministrations of the church. Sixteen years ago these Mexicans had neither churches nor congregations of their own; today there are six Spanish-speaking congregations meeting regularly.

Mr. Bauman has won the confidence of the people by going among them, speaking their own language, and he and his wife are called on often to untangle immigration difficulties or to provide places for women and children to stay when the men come to town. The Baumans are also helpful in dispelling fear of doctors and hospitals, obtaining medical assistance for many who would not have it otherwise.

Joining the church at the age of twelve, Ezra Bauman already was planning to become a foreign missionary. He was in the first Student Volunteer Band for Foreign Missions while studying at Baldwin-Wallace College and later joined the Volunteers at Drew Seminary. In 1907 he was appointed by Bishop Neely to Santiago, Chile.

In the capacity of foreign missionary Mr. Bauman served as pastor, district superintendent, treasurer of the mission, and editor of *El Cristiano* and other publications. He also was the founder of Bunster Agricultural Institute at Angol, Chile, the forerunner of El Vergel farm.

EIGHTY-NINTH DAY



REV. AGAPITO CORONADO

REV. AGAPITO CORONADO is the Missionary Secretary of the Methodist Church of Mexico. He occupies a connectional office of much importance in the developing life of the new

Church in the Republic south of the Rio Grande. His is the responsibility of developing the missionary spirit of the denomination, directing the extension of its work into the unoccupied areas of the country, and inspiring the Church eventually to undertake some foreign missionary activity.

Mr. Coronado was appointed to his present position at the General Conference which was held in September, 1942. He is well qualified for the position both by training and experience.

He was educated in Lydia Patterson Institute at El Paso, Texas, an outstanding Methodist school for Latin American boys and girls which attracts students from a wide area. Returning to his home in Mexico he pursued his studies in the Union Theological Seminary in Mexico City.

For twenty-seven years he has been a minister of the Methodist Church, serving during this whole period in the northern part of the country. He has been pastor in Nuevo Laredo, Piedras Negras, and Saltillo, and was superintendent of the Western District of the Border Annual Conference. Methodists in this country should not fail to remember in their devotions this devoted servant of the Church in Mexico.

NINETIETH DAY



REV. EDELMIRO J. ESPINOSA

IT would be impossible to include in THE UNSEEN GUEST all pastors of Methodist churches in Mexico, but Rev. Edelmiro J. Espinosa is introduced to Methodists in the United States because he is pastor of the largest Methodist church in the Republic. This is the Gante Street Church in Mexico City.

Mr. Espinosa comes of fine Protestant stock. His father was one of the first evangelical preachers in the country and he reared his son to follow in his footsteps.

Edelmiro Espinosa has been a minister of the Methodist Church for twenty-five years. Appointments other than the Gante Street congregation served by him are Monterrey and Torreon. Nearly half of his ministerial career, eleven years to be exact, have been devoted to evangelistic work. His interest and fervor in the cause of winning souls for Christ and the Church is a part of the heritage bequeathed to him by his honored father.

Heavy responsibilities are upon this man and he is meeting them courageously and successfully. Let his fellow Methodists in the United States pray for him and the great congregation he is serving.